



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Question on Age (P-2)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT AGE

- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to identify children for possible eligibility in State Children's Health Insurance Programs and Medicaid.
- The Department of Education uses these data to allocate funds based on the number of children ages 5 to 17 under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.
- The Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to support research on service delivery for children, minorities, and the elderly, particularly those who are chronically and severely mentally ill.
- Businesses aimed at the senior citizen market, such as home-based shopping, specialized transportation, home care, and prepared-meal delivery use these data to identify naturally occurring retirement communities.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

2 What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?
Print numbers in boxes.

Age (in years)

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Month Day Year of birth

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EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT AGE

- Voting Rights Act
- National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program
- No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
- Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act

[<www.census.gov/acs/www>](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)



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HISTORY OF THE AGE QUESTION

- The question on age has been asked since 1790.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

Age is asked in a two-part question: the first part asks for the age of the person, and the second part asks for the date of birth. Since one person in each household usually fills out the questionnaire for every other household member, sometimes ages are reported incorrectly or left blank. This two-part format increases the number of people that we get answers for and improves the accuracy of those answers.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

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<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions